

77. (Original) The proximal stop mechanism of claim 75 wherein the high profile configuration is useful for preventing the device from translating proximally past the mechanism.

78. (Original) A locking mechanism for use with a guide wire deliverable in a vessel, comprising:

a sleeve member disposed over a distal portion of the guide wire, wherein the sleeve member has means for releasably locking the translational position of a device translatably disposed on the guide wire..

79. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 78 wherein the sleeve member is made of a flexible material.

80. (Original) The locking mechanism of claim 78 wherein the sleeve member is threaded.

Remarks/Arguments

In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner restricted the invention into two groups; namely, Group I drawn to an intravascular protection system, classified in class 606, subclass 200 (claims 1-37 and 71-80); and Group II drawn to methods of delivering and translating an embolic filter, classified in class 606, subclass 200 (claims 38-70).

By this communication, Applicants elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-37 and 71-80 in the Application.

It is also asserted in the Restriction Requirement that the Application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states in paragraph 4 of the Restriction Requirement that the Application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Species 1 (Figures 1A-1F), Species 2 (Figures 2A-2C), Species 3 (Figures 3A-3C), Species 4 (Figures 4A-4D), and Species 5 (Figures 5A-5C). Moreover, the Examiner states that Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. According to the Examiner, claims 1-5, 19-20, 28-30, and 38-70 are generic.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.146, Applicants elect, without traverse, Species 1 (Figures 1A-1G) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants assert that claims 1-11, 25-33 and 71-77 are readable on the elected species.

If the Examiner would like to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please contact the undersigned at (612) 677-9050.

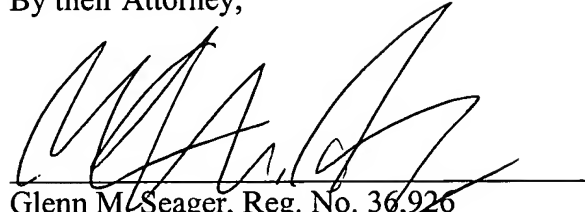
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Respectfully submitted,

AMR SALAHIEH ET AL.

By their Attorney,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. M. Seager", written over a horizontal line.

Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2402
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349